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Statistical Commission

Report on the thirty-fifth session (2-5 March 2004)

Economic and Social Council

Official Records 2004
Supplement No. 4

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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Summary

At its thirty-fifth session, the Statistical Commission reviewed the ongoing work of groups of countries and of international organizations in various fields of demographic, social, economic and environmental statistics and on certain cross-cutting issues in statistics. The Commission:

(a) Recommended that an international expert group be formed to focus on critical issues related to planning the next round of population and housing censuses; agreed to consider a resolution in 2005 requesting the Secretary-General to proceed with the development of a 2010 World Population and Housing Census; and requested that the United Nations Statistics Division establish a well-structured web site to ensure the exchange of census and other data free of charge;

(b) Welcomed the findings of the Friends of the Chair on Health Statistics and took note of the steps taken by the World Health Organization (WHO) to address certain concerns; and called for (i) a strategic review of international programmes on the production of health statistics, (ii) an intersecretariat working group on health statistics and (iii) an annual report prepared by WHO to the Commission on progress on specific initiatives;

(c) Endorsed the new United Nations Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) initiatives, namely, the Monitoring Urban Inequities Programme and the GIS to 1,000 Cities Programme; and noted the following points in the report of UN-Habitat that needed reconsideration: (i) the proposed classification used for human settlements: urban, rural and slums; and (ii) the definition of slums and their determinants, and consideration of extra-legal aspects under country-specific conditions;

(d) Took note of the progress achieved to date on the preparation of a handbook on poverty statistics; noted the continuing work being undertaken by the Rio Group on Poverty Statistics towards the preparation of a compendium on best practices of poverty statistics; and welcomed the intention of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the Rio Group to coordinate their efforts towards a joint publication, emphasizing thereby the need for the handbook to be a practical guide to poverty measurements based on country practices;

(e) Reconfirmed the importance of the updating of the System of National Accounts, 1993 (1993 SNA) and expressed general support for the detailed work programme and timetable, and noted the adequateness of the governance structure and the decision-making mechanism; reiterated that the revision process should build upon the fundamental conceptual basis of the 1993 SNA; emphasized the need for transparency and the broadest possible involvement of the global statistical community in the updating process and, in this context, suggested strengthening the consultation process through additional regional workshops with the participation of developing and transition countries for which appropriate funding should be reserved; called for further technical support to those countries that were not yet in a position to adopt the 1993 SNA; and suggested further research into the underlying factors that impeded SNA implementation as input to the updating process;

(f) Supported the proposal of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation Development (OECD) for a light approach to coordination in the area of services statistics and emphasized that the OECD strategy paper planned for 2005 should, among other things, provide guidance to the service statistics agenda, including the

agenda for the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics;

(g) Acknowledged the work carried out by the World Tourism Organization in developing standards, promoting implementation of standards and disseminating tourism statistics; noted the need for an international exchange of experiences in the compilation of tourism statistics and asked the World Tourism Organization to facilitate an exchange of best practices; stressed the need for stronger coordination in the field of tourism statistics and in the periodic revision of international recommendations; and requested the United Nations Statistics Division to facilitate finding an appropriate forum of coordination, to be decided on in the next meeting of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA);

(h) Reaffirmed its strong support for the International Comparison Programme (ICP), emphasizing the usefulness of purchasing power parities (PPPs) in the analysis of poverty issues and the potential of the programme for capacity-building in consumer price and national accounts statistics; expressed appreciation for the significant progress in the implementation of the 2004-2006 round of ICP at the global, regional and national levels; and underlined the importance of timely release of results to maximize the usefulness of data;

(i) Emphasized the need for a coordinated effort to further develop indicators on information and communication technologies and for capacity-building in this area, in particular in developing countries;

(j) Noted that the Handbook of National Accounting on the System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting, 2003 (SEEA-2003) had been issued on the United Nations Statistics Division web site and welcomed the continuation of theoretical and practical development of environmental accounting and the promotion of the implementation of the SEEA-2003 proposed by the London Group on Environmental Accounting;

(k) Welcomed the fact that the review of the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics had shown considerable progress in their implementation while revealing some of the barriers to their fuller implementation; considered that it was important to obtain information on implementation in countries that had not responded to the survey; reaffirmed that the Fundamental Principles should be broadly applied by all national statistical systems and considered that a compendium of best practices for their implementation would be helpful; and considered that more advocacy efforts were needed to promote implementation, especially in the developing countries;

(l) Endorsed the recommendations of the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications as set out in the report of the Secretary-General, including the proposed high-level structure of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) as a basis for detailed work on the classification; agreed with the proposed work plan for the revision of ISIC and the Central Product Classification, including plans to consult national, international and regional organizations in that effort; and also agreed with the conclusion of the International Merchandise Trade Statistics Task Force that the fourth revision of the Standard International Trade Classification should be prepared for 2007;

(m) Concluded that the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Indicators on harmonization of indicators should be accepted and that, with the support of the United Nations Statistics Division, further international work on

improved methods and technical specifications for development indicators should be carefully considered by the Commission, which should ensure a transparent process of development; also concluded that if availability of statistics needed at national and international levels, including those needed to effectively monitor the implementation and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, was to be achieved, further investment in the development of sustainable statistical capacity, especially in countries with the least developed statistical services, would be required; and further concluded that the importance of support from developed countries and donors to building statistical capacity in developing countries should be stressed, that the importance of the Marrakech Action Plan for improving development statistics in this regard should be noted, and that the work and plans of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS 21) should be encouraged;

(n) Took note of the activities of the Siena Group for Social Statistics; of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics; of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on statistics on the world drug problem; of the Paris Group on Labour and Compensation; of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and OECD on statistics of science and technology; of the Round Table on Business Survey Frames; of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics; of OECD on the presentation of statistical data and metadata; of the task force to establish standards on data and metadata exchange; of the Inter-agency Working Group on Environment Statistics; and of the United Nations Statistics Division on its web site on international statistical methodological work; and, in some of these areas, made specific suggestions on future work, on working mechanisms or on future reporting to the Commission;

(o) Considered the follow-up to the policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council and agreed that the actions taken were consistent with the Council's requests; and asked its Bureau to conduct, with the assistance of the United Nations Statistics Division, an examination of the working methods of the Commission in support of coordinated follow-up to United Nations conferences and summits and present the outcome of the examination to the Commission at its next session, and encouraged the Bureau to reach out to all members for inputs;

(p) Welcomed the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities;

(q) Approved the changes made to the work programme of the United Nations Statistics Division for 2004-2005 as presented orally by the Officer-in-Charge of the Statistics Division; approved the list of expert group meetings and workshops, as amended orally by the Officer-in-Charge; and endorsed the proposed programme plan for the biennium 2006-2007.

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decision

1. The Statistical Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Statistical Commission on its thirty-fifth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Statistical Commission on its thirty-fifth session;

(b) Decides that the thirty-sixth session of the Commission shall be held in New York from 1 to 4 March 2005;

(c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission as set out below.

Provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-sixth session of the Statistical Commission

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session

Note by the Secretariat on the state of preparation of documentation for the session

3. Demographic and social statistics:

(a) Social statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(b) Health statistics;

Documentation

Report of the World Health Organization

(c) Poverty statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(d) Washington Group on Disability Statistics:

Documentation

Report of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics

4. Economic statistics:

(a) National accounts;

Documentation

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts

(b) Energy statistics (programme review);

Documentation

Report of the programme reviewer

(c) Service statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

(d) Statistics of international trade in services;

Documentation

Report of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services

(e) International Comparison Programme;

Documentation

Report of the World Bank

(f) Ottawa Group on Price Indexes;

Documentation

Report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indexes

(g) Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics

(h) Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics:

Documentation

Report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics

5. Natural resources and environment statistics:

Environment statistics and environmental accounting;

Documentation

Report of the Inter-agency Working Group on Environment Statistics

6. Activities not classified by field:

(a) International economic and social classifications;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(b) Indicators;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(c) Statistical capacity-building;

Documentation

Report of the Steering Committee of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS 21)

(d) Presentation of statistical data and metadata;

Documentation

Report of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

(e) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata;

Documentation

Report of the Task Force to establish standards on data and metadata exchange (SDMX)

(f) Information and communication technologies statistics;

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

(g) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(h) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes;

Documentation

Report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities

(i) Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division):

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the work programme of the United Nations Statistics Division

7. Provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-seventh session of the Commission.

8. Report of the Commission on its thirty-sixth session.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

2. The attention of the Council is drawn to the decisions and recommendations of the Commission (see chap. II, paras. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12; chap. III, paras. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16; chap. IV, para. 2; chap. V, paras. 2, 4, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 19; chap. VI, para. 2; and chap. VII, para. 2).

Chapter II
Demographic and social statistics

A. Social statistics (programme review)

B. Siena Group for Social Statistics

1. The Commission considered items 3 (a) and 3 (b) of its agenda at its 1st meeting, on 2 March 2004. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on social statistics (programme review) (E/CN.3/2004/2);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Siena Group for Social Statistics (E/CN.3/2004/3);

(c) Background document entitled "Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Setting the Scope of Social Statistics, New York, 6-9 May 2003" (ESA/STAT/AC.88/04);

(d) Background document entitled "Report of the Expert Group Meeting to Review the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* System, New York, 10-14 November 2003" (ESA/STAT/AC.91/L4);

(e) Background document entitled "Executive summary of the Third Meeting of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, 19 and 20 February, 2004, Brussels.

Action taken by the Commission

2. The Commission:

(a) Endorsed the proposal presented orally by the United Nations Statistics Division and distributed in writing as a room document asking the Commission to regard the proposed activities and priorities stated orally as a replacement for the proposed social statistics forum and the activities related to it that had been laid out in document E/CN.3/2004/2; recommended that an international expert group be formed to focus on critical issues related to planning the next round of population and housing censuses; and agreed to consider a resolution in 2005 requesting the Secretary-General to proceed with the development of a 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme recommending that States Members of the United Nations undertake to carry out population and housing censuses during the period 2005-2014;

(b) Recognized that the United Nations Statistics Division decennial census programme could not cover all emerging topics and asked the expert group to set priorities at its first meeting, noting that items to be considered by the expert group could include, inter alia:

(i) Addressing newly emerging concerns and seeking ways to harmonize census results and prepare an updated version of guidelines that took into consideration the varying needs of both more developed and less developed national statistical offices, as well as regional differences. Attention must be

paid to newly emerging concerns such as the use of information technology and the need for improved statistics on fertility, mortality, international migration, education, labour and health, on characteristics of families, households and living arrangements, on persons according to their usual residence, on foreign-born and on disability. The goal is to anticipate the need for a common approach for countries choosing to cover newly emerging topics, rather than to make this a requirement for all;

(ii) Considering ways to assist countries in meeting their own local, regional and national planning needs while also addressing the need for comparative data across countries and regions of the world;

(iii) Recognizing the important role of administrative records and national survey programmes and working to achieve, to the maximum extent possible, a set of common concepts, definitions, and standards and a minimum data set using the guiding framework of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses as a major starting point for agreement among them;

(iv) Setting a strategy to evaluate alternative approaches to censuses, such as population registers, community surveys, rolling censuses and the use of the Internet, for example, for their effectiveness and efficiency under different national conditions;

(v) Considering ways and means of implementing censuses under difficult circumstances such as those of post-war conditions, political strife, conditions of severe poverty and high prevalences of HIV/AIDS;

(vi) Providing guidance to countries that were implementing censuses while under the pressures imposed by planning elections and other nation-building activities, addressing demands for individual-level data for the purpose of preparing population registers, voter registers and the like, and obtaining information covering small or local areas, while also meeting the need for information required because of large intergovernmental initiatives such as the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, or the United Nations Literacy Decade. Coordinated plans must be established to address these issues, in light of the great demand for social statistics;

(vii) Addressing the important need for improvements in the census metadata system so as to ensure that it included a broader definition and understanding of design differences in censuses;

(viii) Applying lessons in cost issues, dissemination, usage and utilization of existing census data to inform the next round of censuses;

(ix) Increasing the use of the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* system for the reporting of census results and ensuring the international exchange of census data through the use of a wider range of outputs and dissemination formats, which would include the use of the *Demographic Yearbook* system for preparation of the next report on *The World's Women* in 2005;

(c) Requested that the United Nations Statistics Division, as part of its alternative dissemination programme for the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook*, establish a well-structured web site to ensure the exchange of census and other data free of charge;

(d) Took note of the report submitted by the Siena Group for Social Statistics and requested the Siena Group to focus on the following key issues:

(i) Consulting with the expert group while taking into account the goals and priorities established by the Statistical Commission for social statistics;

(ii) Considering the possibility of developing model survey modules for social statistics, provided that the appropriate methodological work had been undertaken;

(iii) Contributing to the activities of the Statistical Commission by identifying a clear list of deliverable outputs and lead members;

(e) Noted the inadequate participation of developing countries in meetings of the Siena Group;

(f) Took note of the presentation made by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics and noted the progress being made by the Washington Group;

(g) Welcomed action 2 of the Marrakech Action Plan for improving development statistics in support of preparation for the 2010 census round.

C. Health statistics

3. The Commission considered item 3 (c) of its agenda at its first meeting, on 2 March 2004. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on health statistics (E/CN.3/2004/4).

Actions taken by the Commission

4. The Commission:

(a) Welcomed the findings of the Friends of the Chair on health statistics;

(b) Took note of the steps taken by the World Health Organization (WHO) to address such concerns as:

(i) The Health Metrics Network being established by a group of partners, including WHO and member countries, to strengthen their respective health information systems;

(ii) The proposed meeting of stakeholders on methods used to compile and generate mortality and health statistics;

(iii) The proposed joint Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)/WHO/ Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) meeting in the second quarter of 2004, to enhance consultation, coordination and collaboration in health statistics;

(c) Underscored that health statistics are an integral part of social statistics, and are strongly influenced by economic and environmental concerns, and that the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics should be applied in the development of official health statistics;

(d) Requested that the declaration of principles currently being prepared by the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) to provide

further guidance to international agencies, take into account relevant issues listed in document E/CN.3/2004/4, which would make redundant the memorandum of understanding proposed in paragraph 41 of that document;

(e) Called for:

(i) A strategic review of international programmes on the production of health statistics, including vital statistics and disability statistics, also intended for the purpose of reaching agreement on areas of responsibility of the agencies involved;

(ii) An intersecretariat working group on health statistics to develop a coordinated and integrated agenda for the production of health statistics and agree on standard definitions, classifications and methodologies in health statistics, taking advantage of existing mechanisms wherever possible, and involving the community of official statistics at all stages;

(iii) An annual report prepared by WHO to the Commission on progress on specific initiatives in support of harmonization of concepts, definitions and methods, and improved coordination of health statistics programmes at the different levels, as well as capacity-building efforts in countries, especially those most in need;

(f) Took note with some reservation of the recommendation that a working group consisting of WHO, the United Nations Statistics Division and relevant national statistical agencies and ministries of health be established to review the purposes and processes for, and explore the challenges in, setting up an international micro database, taking the strict legal provisions governing confidentiality in countries into account;

(g) Requested closer cooperation at the regional level among WHO, its regional offices and other agencies involved in health statistics;

(h) Underscored the need to strengthen national capacities in health statistics, at global, regional and country levels, with WHO and the United Nations Statistics Division playing the leading role;

(i) Reiterated its interest in being informed on alternative methods of estimating the prevalence of HIV/AIDS, as decided at its thirty-fourth session.

D. Human settlements statistics

5. The Commission considered item 3 (d) of its agenda at its 1st meeting, on 2 March 2004. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on human settlements statistics (E/CN.3/2004/5) and a background document entitled "Addendum to the report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (E/CN.3/2004/5)".

Action taken by the Commission

6. The Commission:

(a) Endorsed the new United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) initiatives, namely, the Monitoring Urban Inequities Programme and the GIS to 1,000 Cities Programme;

(b) Noted the following points in the report of UN-Habitat that needed reconsideration:

(i) The proposed classification used for human settlements: urban, rural and slums;

(ii) The definition of slums and their determinants, and consideration of extra-legal aspects under country-specific conditions;

(c) Recognized the need for capacity-building of the national statistical offices in order to generate statistics and indicators related to urban settlements.

E. Statistics of drugs and drug use

7. The Commission considered item 3 (e) of its agenda at its 1st meeting, on 2 March 2004. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on statistics of drugs and drug use (E/CN.3/2004/6) and the background document entitled "The development and management of data and statistics with the objective of ensuring an empirical basis for policy-making in the field of international drug control".

Action taken by the Commission

8. The Commission:

(a) Took note of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on statistics of drugs and drug use;

(b) Also took note of observations concerning the need for:

(i) National capacity-building to produce reliable statistics on the world drug problem;

(ii) Further development of methods for measuring various components of the world drug problem;

(c) Observed that reports to the Commission should specify actions to be taken by the Commission.

F. Paris Group on Labour and Compensation

9. The Commission considered item 3 (f) of its agenda at its 2nd meeting, on 2 March 2004. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Paris Group on Labour and Compensation (E/CN.3/2004/7) and a

background document entitled "Report of the Paris Group on Labour and Compensation on its fifth session (London, 4 and 5 September 2003)".

Action taken by the Commission

10. The Commission:

(a) endorsed the report of the Paris Group on Labour and Compensation and the activities proposed in paragraph 16 of that report;

(b) Recommended that the Paris Group explore the following in its future work programme:

(i) Indicators relating to the ageing labour force;

(ii) Developing uniform acceptable standards to measure the labour input component of productivity that would be comparable among countries;

(iii) Finding a practical means of converting "working time" measures used by countries into the standard that the Paris Group wishes to achieve;

(iv) Integration of data from different sources, such as household surveys, enterprise surveys, and administrative records;

(v) Addressing the issue of underutilization of labour;

(vi) Developing measures of productivity for the informal sector and linking it with the formal sector, and exploring the possibility of coordinating its activities with the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics;

(c) Suggested that:

(i) The Paris Group continue to work with the International Labour Organization (ILO) in the development of new international standards in "working time";

(ii) Countries that had done considerable work in this area and wish to join the Paris Group should be considered for membership;

(d) Requested the Paris Group to encourage greater participation of the developing countries in its deliberations.

G. Poverty statistics

11. The Commission considered item 3 (g) of its agenda at its 2nd meeting, on 2 March 2004. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on poverty statistics (E/CN.3/2004/8) and a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report prepared by the National Institute of Statistics of Brazil on the work of the Rio Group on Poverty Statistics (E/CN.3/2004/9).

Action taken by the Commission

12. The Commission:

(a) Took note of the progress achieved to date on the preparation of a handbook on poverty statistics and expressed its appreciation for the broad consultative process put into place by the United Nations Statistics Division for the further elaboration of the handbook and, in particular, it welcomed the offer of the Government of Brazil to host the first regional workshop;

(b) Noted the continuing work being undertaken by the Rio Group on Poverty Statistics towards the preparation of a compendium on best practices of poverty statistics;

(c) Took note of the concern expressed by many delegations regarding the apparent lack of coordination of activities of the United Nations Statistics Division and the Rio Group and therefore welcomed the intention of the Statistical Division and the Rio Group to coordinate their efforts towards a joint publication;

(d) Emphasized the need for the handbook to be not a normative instrument but rather a practical guide to poverty measurements based on country practices;

(e) Took note of the proposals that the handbook address specific analytical aspects such as vulnerability, and urban versus rural approaches to identifying the poor, as well as poverty-mapping;

(f) Welcomed the willingness expressed by several delegations and international organizations to contribute to the handbook;

(g) Noted the proposal that the handbook broaden its focus to also include best practices of poverty measurements in developed countries, and that a workshop for the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region be organized.

Chapter III
Economic statistics

A. National accounts

1. The Commission considered item 4 (a) of its agenda at its second and third meetings, on 2 and 3 March 2004. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (E/CN.3/2004/10);

(b) Background document entitled "Work programme for the updating of the 1993 SNA";

(c) Room document containing an update on the Handbook on Non-profit Institutions in the System of National Accounts by the Center for Civil Society Studies of the Institute for Policy Studies of the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland;

(d) Room document containing a note on the work of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics by the International Labour Organization.

Action taken by the Commission

2. The Commission:

(a) Reconfirmed the importance of the updating of the *System of National Accounts, 1993* (1993 SNA),[1] expressed general support for the detailed work programme and timetable and noted the adequateness of the governance structure and the decision-making mechanism;

(b) Reiterated that the revision process should build upon the fundamental conceptual basis of the 1993 SNA; and reconfirmed the eligibility criteria for issues to be updated and the limited scope of the update;

(c) Also reiterated the need for maintaining consistency with the ongoing revisions of the Balance of Payments Manual and other relevant frameworks in the area of public sector accounting, and the importance of seeking, to the extent possible, coherence with business accounting standards; and it noted with satisfaction the steps already taken to this end;

(d) Expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved during the first meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts;

(e) Emphasized the need for transparency and the broadest possible involvement of the global statistical community in the updating process; suggested that consideration be given to using electronically circulated questionnaires as a tool for recording opinions on each issue by all member States; and also suggested strengthening the consultation process through additional regional workshops with the participation of developing and transition countries for which appropriate funding should be reserved;

[1] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XVII.4.

(f) Also emphasized the need to secure adequate funding of the updating programme; welcomed the expression by member countries of explicit commitments to providing financial contribution and human resources to assist in the updating process; and encouraged additional funding support to supplement the resources already committed by the international agencies;

(g) Noted with appreciation the progress in respect of the scope of implementation of the 1993 SNA and the increase in the number of countries that conceptually complied with its recommendations, but called for further technical support to those countries that were not yet in a position to adopt the 1993 SNA;

(h) Suggested further research into the underlying factors that impeded SNA implementation as input into the updating process; requested the United Nations Statistics Division in collaboration with regional offices to draft an action plan and seek funding support for its implementation; and noted that the secretariat of the Steering Committee of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS 21) had offered assistance for developing such a plan;

(i) Noted that the International Labour Organization (ILO) would succeed the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as the secretariat of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics with effect from 1 April 2004.

B. Service statistics

3. The Commission considered item 4 (b) of its agenda at its 4th meeting, on 3 March 2004. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics (E/CN.3/2004/11), a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on service statistics (E/CN.3/2004/12) and a background document entitled "Report of the Inter-agency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services to the United Nations Statistical Commission, 2004".

Action taken by the Commission

4. The Commission:

(a) Welcomed the reports presented by OECD and the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics, noting the wide variety of activities related to service statistics carried out by different groups;

(b) Expressed its appreciation for the work of the Voorburg Group, but cautioned against an expansion of the topics discussed by the Voorburg Group;

(c) Supported the strategic discussions planned for the next meeting of the Voorburg Group;

(d) Supported the proposal of OECD for a light approach to coordination, as set out in its report; and noted the desire of countries and regional bodies to participate in future OECD and Voorburg Group meetings;

(e) Emphasized that the OECD strategy paper planned for 2005 should, among other things, provide guidance to the service statistics agenda, including the agenda for the Voorburg Group.

C. Tourism statistics

5. The Commission considered item 4 (c) of its agenda at its third meeting, on 3 March 2004. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Tourism Organization on the development of tourism statistics (E/CN.3/2004/13).

Action taken by the Commission

6. The Commission:

(a) Noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in the area of tourism statistics; and acknowledged the work done by the World Tourism Organization in developing standards, promoting implementation of standards and disseminating tourism statistics;

(b) Acknowledged the efforts of the World Tourism Organization to improve the international comparability and quality of data on tourism and the assistance provided in training and capacity-building in new areas such as tourism satellite accounts;

(c) Noted the need for an international exchange of experiences in the compilation of tourism statistics and asked the World Tourism Organization to facilitate an exchange of best practices;

(d) Noted the intention of the World Tourism Organization to undertake consultations with countries regarding existing recommendations on tourism statistics and explore the need for their updating; and emphasized that the consistency of a possible revision of standards on tourism statistics with the ongoing updates of the 1993 SNA and the Balance of Payments Manual had to be ensured;

(e) Stressed the need for stronger coordination in the field of tourism statistics and in the periodic revision of international recommendations but recognized that different views had been expressed on the means to achieve it, that is to say, some delegates had recommended the creation of an intersecretariat working group composed of the World Tourism Organization, OECD and Eurostat, while the World Tourism Organization had felt that this aim could be more appropriately addressed in the framework of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) inasmuch as other relevant international and regional organizations were also represented on that Committee;

(f) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division to facilitate finding an appropriate forum of coordination, to be decided on in the next meeting of CCSA.

D. International Comparison Programme

7. The Commission considered item 4 (d) of its agenda at its 4th meeting, on 3 March 2004. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme (E/CN.3/2004/14);

(b) Background document dated 3 March 2004 on the status of the International Comparison Programme (ICP) prepared by the World Bank.

Action taken by the Commission

8. The Commission:

(a) Reaffirmed its strong support for ICP, emphasizing the usefulness of purchasing power parities (PPPs) in the analysis of poverty issues and the potential of the programme for capacity-building in consumer price and national accounts statistics;

(b) Expressed appreciation for the significant progress in the implementation of the 2004-2006 round of ICP at the global, regional and national levels;

(c) Acknowledged the efficient leadership role, and well-structured and systematic approach of the World Bank in the coordination of ICP, the guidance provided by the Executive Board and its Technical Advisory Group, the efforts of regional coordinating agencies, the contribution of donor agencies, the extensive cooperation with OECD and Eurostat, and the dedicated work and cooperation of participating countries;

(d) Welcomed the wider dissemination of information on the Programme through the enhanced ICP web site; and noted with satisfaction the improved content and progress in the preparation of the ICP handbook and the development of the ICP software;

(e) Underlined the importance of timely release of results to maximize the usefulness of data, and noted that the effect of rapid price increases on the results of affected countries needed to be taken into account and treated appropriately;

(f) Recommended that efforts be intensified to secure additional funding and in-kind support for the programme at both the regional and global levels in order to overcome the funding shortfall; and supported the view that seeking appropriate funding, rather than reducing or limiting the Programme's goals, was the preferred approach.

E. Statistics of science and technology

9. The Commission considered item 4 (e) of its agenda at its 4th meeting, on 3 March 2004. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development on statistics of science and technology (E/CN.3/2004/15).

Action taken by the Commission

10. The Commission took note of the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on statistics of science and technology.

F. Information and communication technologies statistics

11. The Commission considered items 4 (f) of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 5 March 2004. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the International Telecommunication Union on information and communication technologies statistics (E/CN.3/2004/16);

(b) Background document entitled "Joint UNECE/UNCTAD/UIS/ITU/OECD/Eurostat Statistical Workshop on Monitoring the Information Society: Data, Measurement and Methods (Geneva, 8-9 December 2003)" (CES/SEM.52/1);

(c) Background document entitled "Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Measuring Electronic Commerce as an Instrument for the Development of the Digital Economy, held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 8 to 10 September 2003";

(d) Background document entitled "Executive Summary of the World Telecommunication Development Report 2003: Access Indicators for the Information Society";

(e) Background document entitled "Measuring and monitoring the information and knowledge societies: a statistical challenge" (author: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, Montreal).

Action taken by the Commission

12. The Commission:

(a) Took note of the report of ITU on information and communication technologies (ICT) statistics;

(b) Emphasized the need for a coordinated effort to further develop indicators on ICT;

(c) Expressed the need for capacity-building in this area, in particular in developing countries;

(d) Took note of the suggestion that measures of ICT use should also include the government sector.

G. Round Table on Business Survey Frames

13. The Commission considered item 4 (g) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 4 March 2004. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Round Table on Business Survey Frames (E/CN.3/2004/17).

Action taken by the Commission

14. The Commission:

(a) Took note of the report on the work undertaken by the Round Table on Business Survey Frames;

(b) Recommended that the Round Table review its priorities and encouraged it to particularly focus on issues such as adequate business register frames for the service industries;

(c) Noted that developing countries were underrepresented at meetings of the Round Table and encouraged their closer involvement in the future work of the group.

H. Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics

15. The Commission considered item 4 (h) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 4 March 2004. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics (E/CN.3/2004/18);

(b) Background document entitled "Updated activities of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics incorporating deliberations of its seventh meeting, 2-4 February 2004, New Delhi";

(c) Room document containing the summary report of the 17th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ILCS) prepared by the International Labour Organization for the Statistical Commission (2-5 March 2004).

Action taken by the Commission

16. The Commission:

(a) Took note of the report on the activities undertaken by the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics and acknowledged the progress achieved in its successive meetings towards the development and refinement of a harmonized definition of the informal sector and its measurement methods;

(b) Supported the planned activities of the Delhi Group and expressed the need for building on existing household survey capability of the national statistical offices in respect of further improvement of the measurement of the informal sector;

(c) Noted the adoption of revised guidelines on informal employment by ILO at the 17th International Conference of Labour Statisticians;

(d) Encouraged cooperation with the Delhi Group of various relevant expert and city groups, such as the Paris Group on Labour and Compensation and the Rio Group on Poverty Statistics;

(e) Noted that the United Nations Statistics Division and the Delhi Group would collaborate in preparing a recommendation on the informal sector for the updating of the 1993 SNA.

Chapter IV
Natural resources and environment statistics

1. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 4 March 2004. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the London Group on Environmental Accounting (E/CN.3/2004/19) and a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-agency Working Group on Environment Statistics (E/CN.3/2004/20).

Action taken by the Commission

2. The Commission:

(a) Noted that the Handbook of National Accounting on the System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting, 2003 (SEEA-2003) had been issued on the United Nations Statistics Division web site and as a "white-cover publication" prior to official editing and thanked the international agencies, Statistics Canada and Anne Harrison for their work;

(b) Welcomed the report of the London Group on Environmental Accounting, endorsed its organization and means of operation and supported the strategic directions outlined therein, namely, the consolidation of work in areas already advanced, the continuation of theoretical and practical development of environmental accounting, and the promotion of the implementation of SEEA-2003;

(c) Supported the preparation of an issue paper on the possible expansion of SEEA-2003 to include social aspects so as to better measure sustainable development, while stressing the importance of maintaining the focus of the London Group on environmental-economic dimensions;

(d) Noted with satisfaction the success of developing countries in the implementation of water and other natural resources accounting and stressed the usefulness of the accounts as tools for integrated resource management as well as for dialogue with policy makers;

(e) Took note of the report of the Inter-agency Working Group on Environment Statistics, its terms of reference, and its plan of work for 2004-2005.

Chapter V
Activities not classified by field

A. Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

1. The Commission considered item 6 (a) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 4 and 5 March 2004. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (E/CN.3/2004/21) and a background document consisting of chapter 5, entitled "The Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics: the breakthrough of a new era", of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) publication entitled *50 Years of the Conference of European Statisticians*.[2] The author of the chapter, Jean-Louis Bodin, made a statement regarding the background of the Fundamental Principles, and their role in statistical development, and offered some reflections on possible future work related to them.

Action taken by the Commission

2. The Commission:

(a) Considered that the report of the Secretary-General presented a useful review of the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;[3]

(b) Welcomed the fact that the review showed considerable progress in the implementation of the Fundamental Principles while revealing some of the barriers to their fuller implementation;

(c) Expressed disappointment at the fact that only 58 per cent of all countries (50 per cent of developing countries and 31 per cent of least developed countries) had responded to the survey, and considered that it was important to obtain information on implementation in countries that had not responded, to study the implementation in greater depth for a sample of countries, in cooperation with other organizations, and to analyse the variations in implementation according to level of development and regional grouping and determine what actions might be taken, while recommending peer reviews as a method of evaluating implementation, to which information collected in relation to the General Data Dissemination Standard and the Special Data Dissemination Standard of the International Monetary Fund, and the Partnership Library of Statistical System Documentation (PARLISTAT) programme of PARIS 21 could also contribute;

(d) Considered that a review of implementation of the Fundamental Principles achieved by other producers of official statistics besides national statistical offices would be useful;

(e) Reaffirmed that the Fundamental Principles should be broadly applied by all national statistical systems and considered that a compendium of best practices for their implementation would be helpful to countries in their efforts towards implementation;

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[2] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.E.38.

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 9* (E/1994/29), chap. V, para. 59.

(f) Considered that more advocacy efforts were needed to promote implementation, especially in the developing countries, and to promote knowledge of the Fundamental Principles among policy makers, academics, line ministries and other users of statistics, and also considered that one means of doing this would be through various regional meetings and the preparation of brochures;

(g) Identified a number of areas in the Fundamental Principles and related issues that might benefit from additional thought and research, including exploration of the public nature of statistical information, the obligation to respond to statistical inquiries from statistical authorities, the relationship between statisticians and policy makers, the categorization of good practices, intentional omissions, and legalized errors;

(h) Considered that it would be useful to survey the extent to which statistical services in the international organizations had implemented the Fundamental Principles and welcomed the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities in drafting principles of statistics for international statistical services.

B. International economic and social classifications

3. The Commission considered item 6 (b) of its agenda at its 4th meeting, on 3 March 2004. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications (E/CN.3/2004/22).

Action taken by the Commission

4. The Commission:

(a) Expressed its appreciation for the work carried out by the United Nations Statistics Division, and the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications and its Technical Subgroup on the revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) and the Central Product Classification (CPC);

(b) Endorsed the recommendations of the Expert Group as set out in the report of the Secretary-General, including the proposed high-level structure of ISIC as a basis for detailed work on the classification;

(c) Noted the concerns expressed by some delegates that continued work needed to be undertaken by the Expert Group;

(d) Endorsed the work undertaken to ensure the consistency of ISIC and the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community (NACE), including the compromise solution on repair activities;

(e) Supported the proposal of developing a limited top-level structure for ISIC in conjunction with the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts;

(f) Noted the efforts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to take the lead in the work on classification of agricultural activities and products, thereby providing input into the revision of ISIC and CPC;

(g) Agreed with the proposed work plan for the revision of ISIC and CPC, including plans to consult national, international and regional organizations in that effort;

(h) Noted the plans of ILO for the revision of the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) by 2007, involving the creation of a technical expert group by June 2004, to network with the United Nations Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications;

(i) Agreed with the conclusion of the International Merchandise Trade Statistics Task Force that the fourth revision of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) should be prepared for 2007.

C. Indicators

D. Statistical capacity-building

5. The Commission considered items 6 (c) and 6 (d) of its agenda at its 4th and 5th meetings, on 3 and 4 March 2004. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals" (E/CN.3/2004/23);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Advisory Committee on Indicators (E/CN.3/2004/24);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Steering Committee of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS 21) (E/CN.3/2004/25);

(d) Background document submitted by the World Bank entitled "The Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics: Better Data for Better Results: An Action Plan for Improving Development Statistics";

(e) Background document entitled "Advisory Committee on Indicators study on the correspondence of Friends of the Chair and Millennium Development Goals Indicators and availability of data".

6. The Chairman of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development made a videotaped statement on the use of statistics in development and the Marrakech Action Plan.

Action taken by the Commission

7. The Commission concluded that:

(a) The recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Indicators on the harmonization of indicators should be accepted;

(b) With the support of the United Nations Statistics Division, further international work on improved methods and technical specifications for development indicators should be given further careful consideration by the Commission which should ensure a transparent process of development and greater

involvement in consultations of developed and developing countries and the competent international agencies;

(c) The proposed work programme on methodological issues relating to Millennium Development Goals indicators as contained in annex II to document E/CN.3/2004/23 should clearly specify outputs expected from each activity;

(d) Planned international work on statistics and indicators on information technologies should be carefully coordinated and draw on extensive national and international experience already accumulated in this field;

(e) If availability of statistics needed at national and international levels, including those needed to effectively monitor the implementation and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, was to be achieved, further investment in the development of sustainable statistical capacity, especially in countries with the least developed statistical services, would be required;

(f) The progress of the work of PARIS 21 and the activities proposed in paragraph 16 of its report were satisfactory and should be encouraged;

(g) The importance of statistical capacity-building in developing countries should be stressed and that statistical capacity-building should continue to feature in the agenda of the Commission;

(h) The importance of support from developed countries and donors in building statistical capacity in developing countries should be stressed and the importance of the Marrakech Action Plan in this regard should be noted.

E. Presentation of statistical data and metadata

8. The Commission considered item 6 (e) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 4 March 2004. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development on the presentation of statistical data and metadata (E/CN.3/2004/26).

Action taken by the Commission

9. The Commission took note of the work done by OECD in the area of the presentation of statistical data and metadata.

F. Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata

10. The Commission considered item 6 (f) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 4 March 2004. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the task force to establish standards on data and metadata exchange (E/CN.3/2004/27).

Action taken by the Commission

11. The Commission took note of the work done by the task force in the area of the common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata.

G. Coordination of ongoing methodological work

12. The Commission considered item 6 (g) of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 5 March 2004. It heard an oral report presented by the Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Statistics Division.

Action taken by the Commission

13. The Commission took note of the ongoing work of the United Nations Statistics Division on its web site on international statistical methodological work.

H. Follow-up to Economic and Social council policy decisions

14. The Commission considered item 6 (h) of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 5 March 2004. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General on the policy decisions of the Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2004/28).

Action taken by the Commission

15. The Commission:

(a) Agreed that the actions outlined in the note by the Secretary-General were consistent with the requests of the Economic and Social Council and adequately reflected the relevant work being undertaken and planned by the Commission and the United Nations Statistics Division;

(b) Asked its Bureau to conduct, with the assistance of the United Nations Statistics Division, an examination of the working methods of the Commission in support of coordinated follow-up to United Nations conferences and summits and to present the outcome of the examination to the Commission at its next session; and encouraged the Bureau to reach out to all members for inputs.

I. Coordination and integration of statistical programmes

16. The Commission considered item 6 (i) of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 5 March 2004. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities on its first and second meetings (E/CN.3/2004/29).

Action taken by the Commission

17. The Commission welcomed the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities.

J. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)

18. The Commission considered item 6 (j) of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 5 March 2004. It heard an oral report by the Officer-in-Charge, United Nations Statistics Division, and had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General on the expert group meetings and workshops to be held by the United Nations Statistics Division in 2004/05 (E/CN.3/2004/30);

(b) Room document in the form of a note by the Secretary-General entitled "Proposed Strategic Framework for the biennium 2006/2007".

Action taken by the Commission

19. The Commission:

(a) Approved the changes to the work programme of the United Nations Statistics Division for 2004-2005 as presented orally by the Officer-in-Charge of the Statistics Division, in particular endorsing the postponement of the output "Supplement to the *Compilers Manual for International Merchandise Trade Statistics*" and the modification of two outputs, namely, reducing the four printed issues of the quarterly *Population and Vital Statistics Report* to two and placing an electronic version on the United Nations Statistics Division web site, which would be updated as data became available, and replacing the printed version of the *Compendium of Environment Statistics and Indicators* with an electronic version on the Statistical Division web site with a view to later developing a publication in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);

(b) Approved the list of expert group meetings and workshops set out in document E/CN.3/2004/30 as orally amended as follows:

(i) The expert group meeting entitled "Social statistics (forum)" was replaced with an expert group meeting entitled "Critical issues for planning the 2010 census decade";

(ii) The two workshops entitled "Collection and dissemination of disability statistics into the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* system" and "*Demographic Yearbook*: improving fertility and mortality statistics in English-speaking Africa" were combined.

(c) Endorsed the proposed programme plan for the biennium 2006-2007 as set out in the annex to the room document entitled "Proposed Strategic Framework for the biennium 2006-2007".

Chapter VI

Provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 7 of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 5 March 2004. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretariat containing the provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission (E/CN.3/2004/L.2);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General containing the draft multi-year programme of work for the Statistical Commission for the period 2004-2007 (E/CN.3/2004/31);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General on the activities of the Commission on Sustainable Development and their possible implications for the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2004/32).

Action taken by the Commission

2. The Commission:

(a) Approved the provisional agenda and documentation for its thirty-sixth session as contained in document E/CN.3/2004/L.2 and as orally amended, subject to review and finalization by its Bureau, and requested the Bureau to streamline the agenda so as to make it appropriate for the time assigned to the Commission, distinguishing clearly thereby between discussion and information items;

(b) Recommended that its thirty-sixth session be held in New York from 1 to 4 March 2005;

(c) Approved the multi-year programme of work for the Commission for 2004-2007, as amended;

(d) Took note of the activities of the Commission on Sustainable Development that were relevant for the work of the Statistical Commission.

Chapter VII

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-fifth session

1. At its 6th and 7th meeting, on 5 March 2004, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Commission (E/CN.3/2004/L.3) and two draft texts submitted in English only.

Action taken by the Commission

2. The Commission adopted the draft report and the two draft texts, and entrusted the Rapporteur, in consultation with the Secretariat, with finalizing the report.

Chapter VIII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Statistical Commission held its thirty-fifth session at United Nations Headquarters from 2 to 5 March 2004. The Commission held 7 meetings (1st to 7th).

2. The session was opened by the Vice-Chairman of the thirty-fourth session, Gilberto Calvillo-Vives (Mexico).

B. Attendance

3. The session was attended by 24 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended. (Please see document E/CN.3/2004/INF/1 for the complete list of participants.)

C. Election of officers

4. At its 1st meeting, on 2 March, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman:
Katherine Wallman (United States of America)

Vice-Chairmen:
Gilberto Calvillo-Vives (Mexico)
Jong-Nam Oh (Republic of Korea)
Vladimir Sokolin (Russian Federation)

Rapporteur:
Kwaku A. Twum-Baah (Ghana)

D. Agenda and organization of work

5. At its 1st meeting, on 4 March, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/CN.3/2004/1 and Corr.1, as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Demographic and social statistics:
   (a) Social statistics (programme review);
   (b) Siena Group for Social Statistics;
   (c) Health statistics;
   (d) Human settlement statistics;

(e) Statistics of drugs and drug use;

(f) Paris Group on Labour and Compensation;

(g) Poverty statistics.

4. Economic statistics:

(a) National accounts;

(b) Service statistics;

(c) Tourism statistics;

(d) International Comparison Programme;

(e) Statistics of science and technology;

(f) Information and communication technologies statistics;

(g) Round Table on Business Survey Frames;

(h) Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics.

5. Natural resources and environment statistics.

6. Activities not classified by field:

(a) Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;

(b) International economic and social classifications;

(c) Indicators;

(d) Statistical capacity-building;

(e) Presentation of statistical data and metadata;

(f) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata;

(g) Coordination of ongoing methodological work;

(h) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions;

(i) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes;

(j) Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division).

7. Provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission.

8. Report of the Commission on its thirty-fifth session.

6. At the same meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs addressed the Commission. General statements were made by the representatives of Qatar (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and Ireland (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union).

7. Also at its 1st meeting, the Commission approved the organization of the work of the session (E/CN.3/2004/L.1).

8. At the same meeting, the Commission agreed to the participation in its thirty-fifth session of the following intergovernmental organizations: Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa; Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics; Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries; and Bank for International Settlements.

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